



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 21, 2007

Contact: Holly Porter (858) 565-3490
San Diego County Office of Emergency Services

REGION COMPLETES EVACUATION AND RECOVERY PLANS *Plans incorporate lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina*

Capitalizing on lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina and other disasters, the San Diego County Office of Emergency Services and numerous regional partners have completed two important public safety plans related to disaster evacuations and recovery, officials announced today.

The San Diego Operational Area Evacuation Plan outlines procedures and organizational structures that can be used for a coordinated regional evacuation effort. Transportation routes and capacities are identified in addition to county-wide shelter space and considerations for special needs populations. The Evacuation Plan is intended to be used as a template, as cities throughout the county continue to develop their individual evacuation plans.

"Hurricane Katrina demonstrated the necessity for a detailed, effective *regional* evacuation plan," said Ron Lane, Director of the County Office of Emergency Services. "Evacuations are complex, and require coordination between numerous cities, agencies and disciplines. Completion of this plan is a historic achievement for our region."

Disaster recovery begins during, or shortly after, a disaster occurs. The San Diego Operational Recovery Plan addresses short and long-term restoration plans for communities impacted by disaster, including issues like: debris removal, coordination of financial assistance and housing, economic recovery, and measures to reduce or eliminate the effects of future incidents. The Recovery Plan is designed to provide guidance to jurisdictions and organizations within the County of San Diego as they continue their own recovery planning.

The plans will be presented to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, May 22nd at 9:00 a.m. at the County Administration Center in San Diego. Ron Lane, Director of the Office of Emergency Services, will be available for interviews following the Board of Supervisors' meeting.

###